

16 March 2006

Thursday

READINGS

Psalm 70; Genesis 42:29-38; I Corinthians 6:12-30; Mark 4:21-34

DEVOTION

“And He said unto them, is a candle brought to be put under a bushel or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?” Mark 4:21

What happens when a burning candle is placed under a bushel or a bed? Well, for one, the light is dimmed or possibly not visible at all. Second, when placed in a confined space the flame will begin to weaken, due to its inability to sustain combustion without a sufficient supply of oxygen. The end result is that the flame is useless for its intended purpose.

Jesus used an illustration that we could understand in order to drive home a very important principle. Just as He is light, we as His children are to display His light. “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.” The last phrase in this verse “...walk as children of light” is imperative, meaning it is a command from our Lord, not a mere suggestion. Jesus has revealed His light and He expects us to allow His light to shine in us and through us so that others might be drawn to Him. “For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light to the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.”

So often Christians knowingly, and sometimes unknowingly, allow many things such as indifference toward the Word of God, disobedience, or even intimidation to dim our light and hinder our effectiveness for Christ. Perhaps the first two examples are more noted than the third, however timidity is a very damaging thing to the spiritual life of a Christian and to one's own testimony as well. The Bible tells us in John 12:42-43 that many of the chief rulers of the Pharisees believed in Him, but they did not confess Him because of their fear of being put out of the synagogue, “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” vs.43

Friend, whose praise are you seeking? Do you have a fear similar to that of the Pharisees when it comes to confessing Christ? Does your Christianity and spirituality vary according to what company you're in? Jesus said in Mt.10:32 “Therefore whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I also confess before My father which is in Heaven.” God seeks to Glorify Himself through His children. In Mt 5:16 the Bible says “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.” Who is glorified by your actions, reactions, speech, character, etc.?

If you have placed your light under one of the many damaging bushels that we confront, I bring you good news. Our God is a faithful God and “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Confess your condition to Him and make a whole hearted commitment to Him today, to ever live your life to shine forth His light. But remember this, His light must be present in order for it to shine. Rom.10:9-10;13

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